



# Current News of Note

FROM THE MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICE OF GLENN RESEARCH CENTER

LAKE COUNTY TRIBUNE

MADISON, OH

MAR-31-2006

## Students exposed to career opportunities

*Speakers from numerous areas give a glimpse of what jobs entail*

by MARIAN MCMAHON

**PERRY** – Perry High School had its annual Career Week from March 13 to 17, with more than 100 speakers who addressed students about their careers, the education required for their positions, and what the work involved. Careers ranged from the military, to medical fields, civil service, scientific areas, education, marketing and more.

The program was open to juniors and seniors. Students were able to attend 16 sessions over a four-day period. On the last day, the students were given information on college admissions and finances.

Daniel D. White, resource and & outreach manager of the environmental management office of the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, brought The Aero Bus to Perry High School. The bus was a 1977 Eagle, which was government surplus. It was renovated for \$80,000 in 1998.

"I wanted something that would take five minutes to set up," White said. "It's also used to transport VIPs who come to NASA, like senators and congressmen. John Glenn rode on the bus."



PHOTOS BY MARIAN MCMAHON

Perry teacher David Wright joins students John Hokavar, Zak Johnson, Joe Carturra, Drew Rusnak, Ryan Freeman and Christi Andrulis in viewing a NASA film about how the Mars rovers got to Mars and collected samples.

The bus travels to many places, like air shows, schools and colleges, both in and out of state. Volunteers take the bus, depending on their schedules.

One small group of students was accompanied by teacher David Wright to a presentation on the bus. When White asked who was aware of the NASA Glenn Research Center and none of the students had heard of it, Wright

said it meant the science teachers needed to take their students on field trips there.

The students viewed a computer-animated film of the launch of the Mars probes. It showed how the different stages dropped off and the rovers dropped to Mars, cushioned by "balloons" which peeled away so the rover could assemble itself and move about to take samples. White said the rovers were supposed to operate for 90 days, but they have lasted more than a year already. He asked the students what the rovers would be looking for and one of the students correctly answered water. They were searching for water because that would be an indication of life.

"I think a lot of kids were interested in the video and what we were doing," White said. "Some asked what it took to work for NASA. I told them math, physics and science."

There are many other jobs available with NASA, he said, like business majors, and accountants, so there are numerous opportunities.

White said the Glenn research center basically works on propulsion, and making jets quieter. They work on more efficient engine designs. They have also done solar research and space communication.

The Glenn Research Center has a visitor's center which is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sundays from 1 to 6 p.m. and holidays (with some exceptions) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. White suggested people call first. Groups up to 20 people can arrange for a tour of the facility by calling ahead and making a reservation.

"I thought it was pretty interesting," said junior Ryan Freeman. "I learned some stuff about NASA I didn't know."

He found the military presentations most interesting, however, and they had him thinking about joining the military. He said if he did not go into the service, he would consider teaching physical education or math.

Ryan said he also found the investment banking presentation of interest. He said he learned a lot and that it would be a rough business at first, requiring many hours, but once someone got past that, it could be "fun."

"I thought (career week) was a good idea," Ryan said. "If students are unsure of what they want to do, it gives them ideas of what jobs are out there for us."

Senior Christi Andrulis selected going to the NASA presentation after she had selected the presentations which related to her chosen field of engineering, either electrical or mechanical.

"I thought the bus was really cool and the seats were comfortable," she said. "I think if they showed real footage, it would have been more interesting."

She found the Marine presentation interesting because it presented stories of what boot camp was like. She said she like the Crossroads presentations because they were interactive and she enjoyed the massage she got in massage therapy.

"I think it (college presentations) gave me a better feel for what I'm in for in college," Andrulis said.

Teacher Gary Stevenson and the business department at Perry High School proposed Career Week. Stevenson received organizational assistance from staff members, including Doug Jenkins, Scott Hunt, David Wright, Bill Sarvis, Lori Reigert, Becky Hoyt, Rachele Alpine, Michelle Carino, Rob Renau and Karen Altenweg.

The organizers first did a survey of what careers the juniors and seniors were interested in. Then, they sent letters out to the Perry business community and made a lot of phone calls.

"It went great," Stevenson said. "This is the first time we have had a career week. We had 102 speakers. Many were former Perry students and school board members. For our first time, it went well."



The NASA Aero Bus serves as a theater to show Perry High School juniors and seniors a short presentation of how two rovers were sent to Mars.